(2) MEASURES FOR DECORATING THE STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSES ON THE LINES OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE ON DECORATING THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir I am not moving my resolution."

(3) AMENDMENT TO THE MADRAS ESTATES (ABOLITION AND CONVERSION INTO RYOTWARI) ACT, 1948, AND THE MADRAS ESTATES LAND (REDUCTION OF RENT) ACT, 1947.

SRI S. P. SIVASUBRAMANYA NADAR :—" I move the resolution standing in any name, namely :—

' *This Council recommends to the Government that the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948 and the Madras Estates Land (Reduction of Rent) Act, 1947 be amended to the effect that a permanently settled estate shall, for the purposes of the above two Acts, include all the Inam lands within the estates boundaries.*'

After the passing of these two Acts mentioned in the resolution the tenants have become ryoti tenants in the estate and also in the major inams. But on account of the definition that is given in these two Acts, the minor inams are excluded and the old system of tenure even now continues, even though the neighbouring lands under the major inams continue to get the privileges and rights of the ryoti tenure. This anomaly is due to a historical accident. In the definition of the Act, the estate is defined to be a permanently settled estate under Regulation XXV of 1802. In that Regulation minor inam has been omitted for investigation at a later stage, but that was never done. Hence, in adopting the definition that is now given in the Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, these minor inams have been omitted. It is easy to enable these minor inams also to get the benefit of these two Acts by amending the definition of the word ' estate ' in these two Acts so as to include minor inams also. 4-20 p.m.

" The objection that can possibly be raised is the payment of compensation to these lands also. For the estates that have been taken over, compensation has not yet been fully paid and the Government will have to bear an additional expenditure by way of compensation to these inamdars. My suggestion is this, Sir. In these inam lands what is given to the inamdar is an assignment of land revenue. If the lands are converted into ryoti lands and the land revenue collected is given to the inamdars, there will be no necessity to pay them any compensation. They will be satisfied if the revenue or the land tax that is collected from the ryotwari lands is given to them. Even otherwise, after the amendment of the Constitution the compensation which will have to be now paid will be far less than what the Government are now paying

under the Estates Abolition Act. This would not be also against the Constitution, since under Article 31-A, the conversion of the inam land into ryoti land will not be barred and it can be easily done. Then there will be uniformity of tenure in the villages. In an estate which has been recently abolished, the ryots are enjoying the privileges of a ryotwari patta, while in the adjoining minor inams they are under the old tenure and subjected to all the hardships under that tenure. If these minor inams are also abolished there will be uniformity of tenure in the villages. So, I commend to the consideration of the House the adoption of this resolution which is a harmless one, but which will be beneficial to the people."

The resolution was seconded by Sri P. P. Ummer Koya.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am afraid that it will not be possible for this House to accept this resolution moved by Sri Sivasubramanya Nadar. Minor inams have got a very long history. Minor inams have been given for meritorious services rendered and for services to be rendered also. Therefore it is even at the time when the permanent Regulation of 1802 was passed, in the definition of permanently settled estate, they did not include minor inams. Even in the Estates Land Act minor inams were not included. There is great difficulty in the matter. I think the mover of the resolution himself did well in stating that the government have to pay a lot of compensation still for many of these zamindari estates that have been converted by the Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act. I think that it would take a long time for the Government to completely make the payment of compensation which they have now undertaken to pay unless under the new amendment to the Constitution, they are enabled to stop payment of compensation or reduce compensation. Merely because minor inams are also included in the permanently settled estates, to say that at the present jucture they should also be converted into ryoti lands is not quite correct. Minor inams were granted for various reasons. That question has to be separately tackled and considered and after that only minor inams can be included in the definition of ' estate '. I hope and trust Government will take up this matter a little later. I would, therefore, appeal to the mover of the resolution to better wait for some time and not press the resolution now for consideration by the Government."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Sir, the principle of abolishing the intermediaries in the land tenure system has been accepted by the Government and it is only in pursuance of that, the Government have passed legislation abolishing the zamindaris. In this respect our State had been the pioneer

in abolishing the zamindaris. Other States are now following us. In fact many State representatives and Ministers have come over to our State to find out how this legislation is working here so that they may implement it in their States. Now, as it is in order to apply this Estates Abolition Act, it must be an estate in the first instance and secondly it must be an estate which comes under the purview of the Abolition Act. Apart from the minor inams, there are other inams which have been declared estates, but they did not come under the purview of the Abolition Act. They are called the 1936 inams. That is in that year there was a legislation which made certain inams estates. They will not come under the Abolition Act. I think such inams are about 3,000 or so in number. Government have not taken any steps to apply the Abolition Act to them. Now, my hon. friend who moved the resolution wants the minor inams also to be brought under the Abolition Act. As the hon. member Sri K. Balasubramanya Ayyar pointed out, there is some difficulty in the case of minor inams which we have to carefully examine. The Government are desirous of passing some legislation to abolish these intermediaries and towards that end, I think in the first place they have to tackle the 1936 inams. Now if both these kinds of inams are abolished according to the Zamindari Abolition Act, compensation will have to be paid. It has been estimated roughly that a sum of Rs. 20 crores will have to be paid as compensation. Already in the case of the zamindaris which have been abolished, the Government have committed themselves to pay compensaton to the extent of Rs. 12½ crores. We must look into the question whether the Government can afford to pay this compensation now. Incidentally I may say that there is a move in Parliament to amend the Constitution in the matter of paying compensation for lands acquired by Government. I think it is worthwhile to wait for the conclusion in the matter so that that decision may facilitate our attempt to abolish all these inams. To accept the resolution, as it is, is impracticable, because the resolution contemplates all sorts of inams. It is very vague. There are under-tenure inams and other inams. Therefore, I would assure the hon. Member and restate that the Government are already seized of this problem and that they would bring in legislation to abolish some more estates which are in the nature of intermediaries. The Government will take every step towards that end. I would therefore request the hon. Member to withdraw his resolution and look forward eagerly for what the Government are going to do in the course of one or two years."

4-30 p.m.

SRI S. P. SIVASUBRAMANYA NADAR :—" Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Hon. Minister I withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was withdrawn by leave of the House.